

Annual Report 2007/2008



“Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless:
maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed.”

Psalm 82.3



Women's community
groups give a helping
hand when hardship
strikes.

Contents

Editorial	3
CRN's work 2001 – 2008	4
CRN 2007/2008	6 – 7
• Children associated with armed militia groups	9
• Help to victims of sexual violence	9
• Capacity-building in the treatment of fistula	9
Who is behind CRN	10
Partners in Norway	13
Annual Report and Auditor's Statement	14 – 15

Christian Relief Network

Christian Relief Network (CRN) is a non-profit foundation dedicated to improving the lives of men, women and children living in conditions of poverty, oppression and insecurity. CRN works together with individuals, churches, organisations and authorities to bring relief, peace and development to the most vulnerable. Our projects are implemented through local partners with integrity, experience, knowledge and commitment to rebuilding their country. The dedication of our partners and the local networks enable CRN to work in areas that are hard to access, and to reach out to people who are cut off from outside help because of war and unrest.

What is so special about CRN?

You may think that all aid organisations, so-called Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs), are more or less the same; people who have a big heart for the poor and the vulnerable, people who do their best to make the world a better place. Yes, CRN is all of this, but also much more.

Our motto is 'joining good forces'. We attempt to find positive forces in the field and unite them with forces for good in wealthy countries. We find unique men and women with a vision who show extraordinary strength in combating injustice. Our cooperation partners in developing countries give CRN the opportunity to work efficiently due to their contact networks and their good reputation, their knowledge, experience, integrity and solicitude for those who are suffering. Such people are found in local church networks, local NGOs and in women's groups. CRN gives them the chance to use their talents, abilities and commitment to realise their vision.

CRN is characterised by:

- A small, efficient organisation with limited administration and a short time-lag between decision and action;
- Rapid start-up of specific projects when war and unrest demand action;
- Clear, visible results;
- Widespread trust among the population and the authorities.



CRN has worked in the Great Lakes region since 1994. This part of Central Africa has experienced unbelievable human suffering and destruction in the ensuing years. The UN has referred to the crisis in the Democratic Republic of Congo as the largest and most deadly humanitarian catastrophe since the Second World War. In the last ten years more than five million people have lost their lives as a direct consequence of war and unrest in the country, half of whom are children under five years of age. Millions of internally displaced persons have grown up in camps under the most horrific conditions. Hundreds of thousands of women have been

sexually abused, and tens of thousands of children have been recruited to guerrilla groups.

CRN has chosen the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and North and South Kivu in particular, as their main area of focus. We know the country and the people through our local cooperation partners: the Pentecostal Church Network – CEPAC, and Hope in Action. Together we identify the needs and how best we can meet them. Our local partner provides staff that combine the required professional skills in project management/administration with solicitude and consideration for the suffering of their fellow human beings.

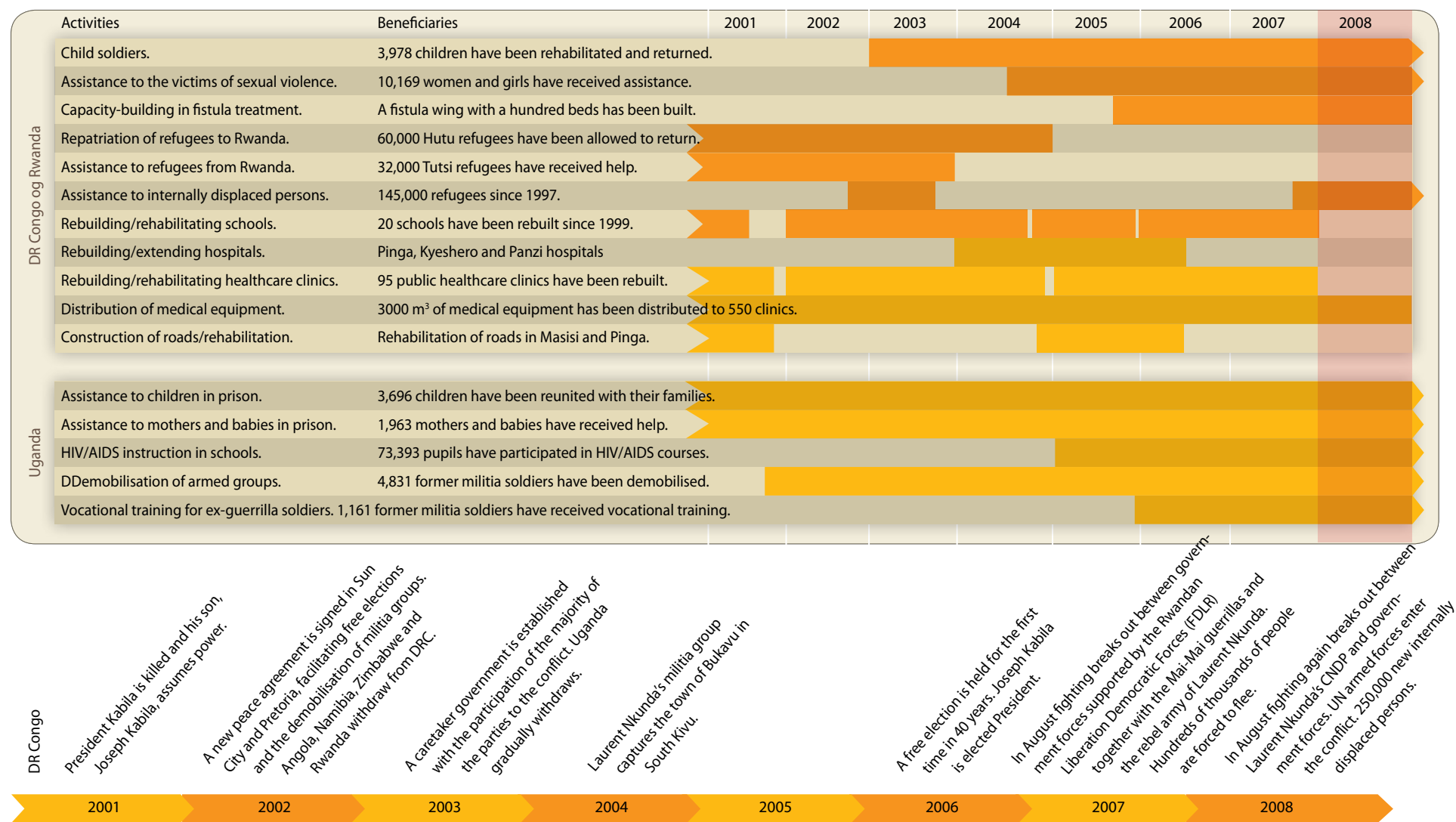
In Uganda, CRN has focused on children in juvenile prisons, women in prison and the rehabilitation of former rebel soldiers from guerrilla groups in North and West Uganda. Our partner – Give Me a Chance – changes the lives of many people who would not otherwise have a future.

In Norway CRN ensures that the public is kept informed about the situation in the Congo and Uganda. Media focus on the war in the Congo in autumn 2008 gave us a unique opportunity to speak for the victims of rape and to highlight the situation of child soldiers. Our donor base was enlarged and new people became involved.

We, the staff of CRN, have found our country, our people and our own approach to their plight. Perhaps CRN could partner you in your commitment to the poor and needy. Read more about this in the following pages

Oddvar Espegren
Director

CRN's track record 2001 – 2008





CRN 2007

Donors both in Norway and the UK entrusted CRN with the task of continuing ongoing projects. A new war broke out in East Congo in autumn 2007. CRN immediately initiated a programme to help the tens of thousands of refugees who poured into Goma.

In 2007 CRN was the beneficiary of the Norwegian Medical Students' Humanitarian Campaign. Medical students from Tromsø, Trondheim, Bergen and Oslo raised almost NOK 1.7 million to strengthen local capacity to treat women who have developed fistula after brutal rapes or difficult births.

In autumn 2006 the composer Rolf Wallin and the Belgian director Josse De Pauw visited CRN's child soldier programme at Beni in DRC. After the visit they produced a multi-media work: a concert involving an actor, an orchestra, video, and surround sound that highlights the use of child soldiers in Africa. The work "Strange News" had its world premiere performance at the Oslo Concert Hall on 11 May 2007. The concert aroused great enthusiasm and is to be performed in a number of European cities, as well as in Chicago, in the course of the next few years.

Ongoing projects in DRC:

- Demobilisation, rehabilitation, vocational training and the return of 907 children associated with armed groups.
- Psycho-social and medical treatment of 1,522 rape victims.
- Building and equipping a fistula wing at Panzi hospital with 100 beds. Training of healthcare workers in fistula treatment. 531 fistula operations carried out on rape victims.
- Rebuilding/rehabilitating and equipping 21 healthcare clinics. Building a maternity unit and restoring six healthcare clinics, training of healthcare workers.
- Assistance to internally displaced persons in and around Goma targeting rape victims, pregnant women and children under five years of age.

Ongoing projects in Uganda:

- Assistance to 380 children in juvenile custody; counselling sessions, courses, activities, tracing families. Return of 99 children to their families.
- Assistance to 185 women and infants in the women's prison; counselling sessions, distribution of essential hygienic articles and baby food, vocational training. Legal assistance to 10 women.
- HIV/AIDS instruction at 50 schools with altogether 11,032 pupils. The aim has been to increase knowledge among teachers and pupils, thus reducing the incidence of the disease in the population.
- Promotion of peace and stability in Uganda by repatriating and rehabilitating 281 former rebel soldiers and their families and reintegrating them into civil society. Vocational training for 149 rebel soldiers from Kenya and from groups in Uganda.



Norwegian medical students take part in the fund-raising campaign in autumn 2007 – a hospital for teddy-bears, in front of Oslo Town Hall, raises money for the fistula wing at the Panzi hospital in DRC.

CRN 2008

The ongoing projects continued into 2008. The warring parties in East Congo signed a peace agreement in January, and the refugees who lived in and around Goma ventured to return to their homes during the spring. In August fighting broke out once more between Nkunda's CNDP and government forces. As many as 250,000 new internally displaced persons streamed into Goma, the number of rapes and the recruitment of child soldiers increased and roadblocks hindered free passage. Again we started up the refugee project. All ongoing projects were affected by the warfare but were continued despite great challenges.

Ongoing projects in DRC:

- Demobilisation, rehabilitation, vocational training and the return of 1,071 children associated with armed groups.
- Psychosocial and medical treatment of 2,147 rape victims.
- Completed the building and equipping of a 100-bed fistula wing with two operating theatres at the Panzi hospital. Completed special training of healthcare workers in fistula treatment. Financed 675 fistula operations on rape victims.
- Completed the rebuilding/rehabilitation and equipping of 21 healthcare clinics. Extension of maternity unit and restoration of six healthcare clinics in addition to the training of healthcare workers.
- Assistance to internally displaced persons in and around Goma targeted towards rape victims, pregnant women and children under five years of age.
- Disarming and rehabilitating rebel soldiers in East Congo.

Ongoing projects in Uganda:

- Assistance to 407 children in juvenile prisons; counselling sessions, courses, activities, tracing of families. Return of 97 children to their families.
- Assistance to 220 women and infants in women's prisons; counselling sessions, distribution of necessary hygienic

articles and baby food, vocational training.
Legal assistance to 23 women.

- Building of a daycare centre for infants at Mbarara women's prison.

- HIV/AIDS instruction at 42 schools with altogether 8,300 pupils. The aim was to increase knowledge of HIV/AIDS among teachers, pupils and the population at large, thus reducing the incidence of the disease.

- Repatriation, rehabilitation and return of 350 former rebel soldiers. Vocational training for 652 ex-rebels who have been living in neighbouring countries.

Education in a Ugandan prison for young offenders.



From a refugee camp outside
Goma, autumn 2007.



In the last decade war and unrest have caused inhuman suffering for the population of East Congo. Women and children suffer the most. Tens of thousands of women and children are the victims of brutal rapes, and all warring groups include child soldiers in their ranks.

Children associated with armed groups

With the support of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, CRN has demobilised, rehabilitated and returned 3,978 child soldiers in DRC together with its partner CEPAC.

Murder, hunger, fear, sexual abuse and terror are a part of the everyday life of child soldiers. Many of the children have been in the guerrilla movement for several years, and have been robbed of their childhood. Nonetheless, there is hope. CRN has a dedicated team of local workers who have rehabilitated and returned thousands of children to their families. A new law forbids the use of children in warring groups – a number of children have now been granted their freedom and have been handed over to rehabilitation programmes.



Assistance to rape victims

With the support of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, CRN has together with its partner CEPAC helped 10,169 Congolese women suffering from the consequences of brutal rapes.

The local women's network has reached out to provide help for thousands of women and girls to resume their lives after brutal sexual violence. Female counsellors and health workers have listened to innumerable stories of vicious abuse and ruined lives. The women are incorporated into women's community groups and together they have travelled the long road which in most cases has led to the healing of body and soul. Fifty counsellors, as well as a number of clinics, rehabilitation centres, health stations and hospitals are involved in the network. War and turmoil has characterised the last two years, but this has not stopped the work. The church network plays an important role in influencing attitudes in the local communities and their ability to look after these victims.



Treatment of fistula patients

With the support of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and its counterpart, the UK Department for International Development, CRN has built a 100-bed fistula wing in the Panzi hospital in Bukavu together with its local partner CEPAC, provided training for health workers and financed 1,622 fistula operations.



Thousands of women in the Congo develop fistula as a direct consequence of brutal rapes and the lack of health services in connection with childbirth. The disease leads to the leakage of urine/faeces, great pain and social isolation. A 100-bed wing with two operating theatres has been built and is operating at full capacity at the Panzi hospital. In addition, 12 surgeons have had a year of specialisation in fistula surgery. Nurses and other health workers have received special training in caring for and preventing this condition. Professional knowledge in this field has been disseminated to other towns and villages in East Congo. In 2007 the Norwegian Medical Students' Humanitarian Campaign raised NOK 1.7 million for this work. The student campaign directed focus at Congolese women and their suffering, raising awareness among both medical students and the Norwegian population at large.

Board, staff and partners

Board and staff, October 2008

Board members:



Svein Andersen, Chairman



Lars Rise, Vice Chairman



Ellen Kværner, Board member



Haakon Bryhni, Board member



Jan-Erik Børrestad, Board member

Staff:



Oddvar Espegren, Director



Gro Bøckmann Randby,
Information officer/Project Consultant



Wenche Destad, Accountant

Partners in Congo



Dan Andersson,
Director, Hope in Action



Banyene Bulere,
President of the CEPAC church
denomination

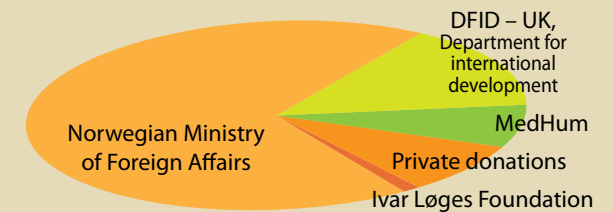


Partner in Uganda

Kenneth Kamese,
Director, Give Me a Chance

CRN's donors:

Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (NMFA) and Department for International Development - United Kingdom (DFID) are by far the largest donors to CRN's projects. The humanitarian campaign of Norwegian medical students (MedHum) added approx. 1,7 million NOK to a health care project in 2007. In 2008 a partnership with Ivar Loeges Foundation was established, and together with private funding this partnership finances the prison-related work of CRN in Uganda. Both large and small private donors are the foundation of CRN. In the years to come we will strengthen



this foundation by inviting more people to join us, as we together challenge injustice, suffering and poverty in Congo and Uganda!



Our cooperation partners in the field do the real work.

The new fistula wing at the Panzi hospital.
The hospital beds come from the St. Olav Hospital
in Trondheim.



Partners in Norway

Et Rikere Liv

In autumn 2007, CRN started collaborating with Et rikere liv, a foundation established by the owners and employees of Formuesforvaltning, a privately-owned wealth management firm in Norway. The aim of the foundation is to provide financial, strategic and operative support for projects of benefit to society.

At present CRN is collaborating with Et Rikere Liv on two projects.

- Ivar Løge's foundation donated NOK 250,000 to support CRN/GMAC's work among children and adolescents in Ugandan prisons in 2008. This funding has been doubled in 2009.
- Kom Forlag, the publishing house, began work on a book entitled "Kvinner bærer halve himmelen" (Women hold up half of heaven) in collaboration with Et Rikere Liv. The book describes how women assume responsibility and help other women to resume their lives after brutal rapes. The book is part of a cooperation among several actors working with women and violence in DRC.

Women and infants in prison

In January 2007 the first woman was released from the women's prison in Uganda and reunited with her three children after several years behind prison walls. During this time she had no opportunity to have her case heard. CRN's donors made this possible by providing funding for lawyers who could bring such cases before the courts. Since then, 33 women have had their cases heard by the courts – and all have been acquitted.

In summer 2008, GMAC began the building of a long-awaited daycare centre for infants in the women's prison. The mothers keep their babies with them when they are put in prison, or

when they are pregnant and give birth in prison. The authorities remove the child at the age of 18 months, causing great suffering to both the mother and child. The daycare centre will enable the mother to keep the child as long as she remains in prison. CRN's donors have made this possible.

Work with child soldiers endangered

In autumn 2008 it appeared that CRN would be forced to wind up activities among child soldiers. CRN's donors started a campaign among their friends and relatives and raised enough money to allow the work to continue. Shortly after-

wards an application for support was granted by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the project will go on.

Women's network in Grimstad

"Kvinner i alle aldre" (Women at all stages of life) has supported the work to help women in DRC who have been raped. Inger Lise-Rypdal, the well-known Norwegian singer and entertainer, visited DRC and met these women. Her commitment became known in Norway and the women's network in Grimstad joined her in this work.



Financial statement 2007/2008

Profit and loss statement (figures in NOK)

	Notes	2008	2007
Revenue			
Donations	8	3 815 329	1 658 492
Reserves for earmarked donations		(141 442)	876
Use of earmarked donations		85 531	-
Project revenue	2	19 481 779	19 345 710
Donation of medical equipment		-	-
Other income		462 000	237 573
Total revenue		23 703 197	21 242 651
Direct project expenditures			
		21 340 758	18 767 133
Operating expenditures			
Salaries and social cost	4	714 282	837 374
Administration cost		1 482 465	897 243
Communication		451 290	261 308
Depreciation	5	18 695	41 550
Total operating expenditures		2 666 732	2 037 475
Operating result		(384 293)	438 043
Financial items			
Financial income		724 669	206 348
Financial cost		37 368	910 819
Net financial items		687 300	704 471
Net profit (loss)		383 007	(266 428)
Appropriation of profit (loss):			
Transferred to other equity		383 007	(266 428)

Balance sheet (as per 31 st Desember 2008)

	Notes	2008	2007
Long-term assets			
Vehicles		45 914	134 217
Computer equipment		12 956	21 820
Furniture and Fixtures		39 325	49 156
Langsiktig fordring/Long-term receivables			
Total long-term assets	5	98 195	205 193
Short-term assets			
Accounts receivable		18 500	261 650
Other short-term receivables		2 136 061	4 283 357
Bank deposits and cash	6	14 913 097	9 895 126
Total short-term assets		17 067 658	14 440 132
Total Assets		17 165 853	14 645 325
Equity and Liabilities			
Equity			
Foundation capital		200 000	200 000
Other equity		332 322	-50 686
Total equity	7	532 322	149 314
Short-term liabilities			
Accounts payable		81 346	19 638
Government taxes payable		105 478	153 854
Other short-term liabilities		16 295 695	14 227 418
Unused earmarked funds	3	151 011	95 101
Total short-term liabilities		16 633 531	14 496 011
Total equity and liabilities		16 633 531	14 496 011

Oslo, 12. mai 2009

Svein E. Andersen

Svein E. Andersen
Chairperson

Lars Riise

Lars Riise
Nestleder

Jan-Erik Børrestad

Jan-Erik Børrestad

Haakon Bryhni

Haakon Bryhni

Ellen Kværner

Ellen Kværner

Oddvar Espegren

Oddvar Espegren
Director

Auditor's Statement

PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS 

PricewaterhouseCoopers AS
Postboks 748
NO-0106 Oslo
Telefon: 02316
Telefax: 23 16 10 00

Til styret i stiftelsen Christian Relief Network CRN

Revisjonsberetning for 2008

Vi har revidert årsregnskapet for stiftelsen Christian Relief Network CRN for regnskapsåret 2008, som viser et overskudd på kr 383 007. Vi har også revidert opplysningene i årsberetningen om årsregnskapet, forutsetningen om fortsatt drift og forslaget til anvendelse av overskuddet. Årsregnskapet består av resultatregnskap, balanse og noteplysninger. Regnskapslovens regler og god regnskapskikk i Norge er anvendt ved utarbeidelsen av regnskapet. Årsregnskapet og årsberetningen er avgitt av stiftelsens styre og daglig leder. Vår oppgave er å uttale oss om årsregnskapet og øvrige forhold i henhold til revisorlovens og stiftelseslovens krav.

Vi har utført revisjonen i samsvar med lov, forskrift, god revisjonskikk i Norge, henunder revisjonsstandarder vedtatt av Den norske Revisorforening. Revisjonsstandardene krevder at vi planlegger og utfører revisjonen for å oppnå betryggende sikkerhet for at årsregnskapet ikke inneholder vesentlig feilinformasjon. Revisjon omfatter kontroll av utvalgte deler av materialet som underbygger informasjonen i årsregnskapet, vurdering av de benyttede regnskapsprinsipper og vesentlige regnskapsestimater, samt vurdering av innholdet i og presentasjonen av årsregnskapet. I den grad det følger av god revisjonskikk, omfatter revisjon også en gjennomgåelse av stiftelsens formuesforvaltning og regnskaps- og interkontroll-systemer. Vi mener at vår revisjon gir et forsvarlig grunnlag for vår uttalelse.

Vi mener at

- årsregnskapet er avgitt i samsvar med lov og forskrifter og gir et rettviseende bilde av stiftelsens økonomiske stilling 31. desember 2008 og av resultatet i regnskapsåret i overensstemmelse med god regnskapskikk i Norge
- ledelsen har oppfylt sin plikt til å sørge for ordentlig og oversiktlig registrering og dokumentasjon av regnskapsopplysninger i samsvar med lov og god bokføringskikk i Norge
- opplysningene i årsberetningen om årsregnskapet, forutsetningen om fortsatt drift og forslaget til anvendelse av overskuddet er konsistente med årsregnskapet og er i samsvar med lov og forskrifter.

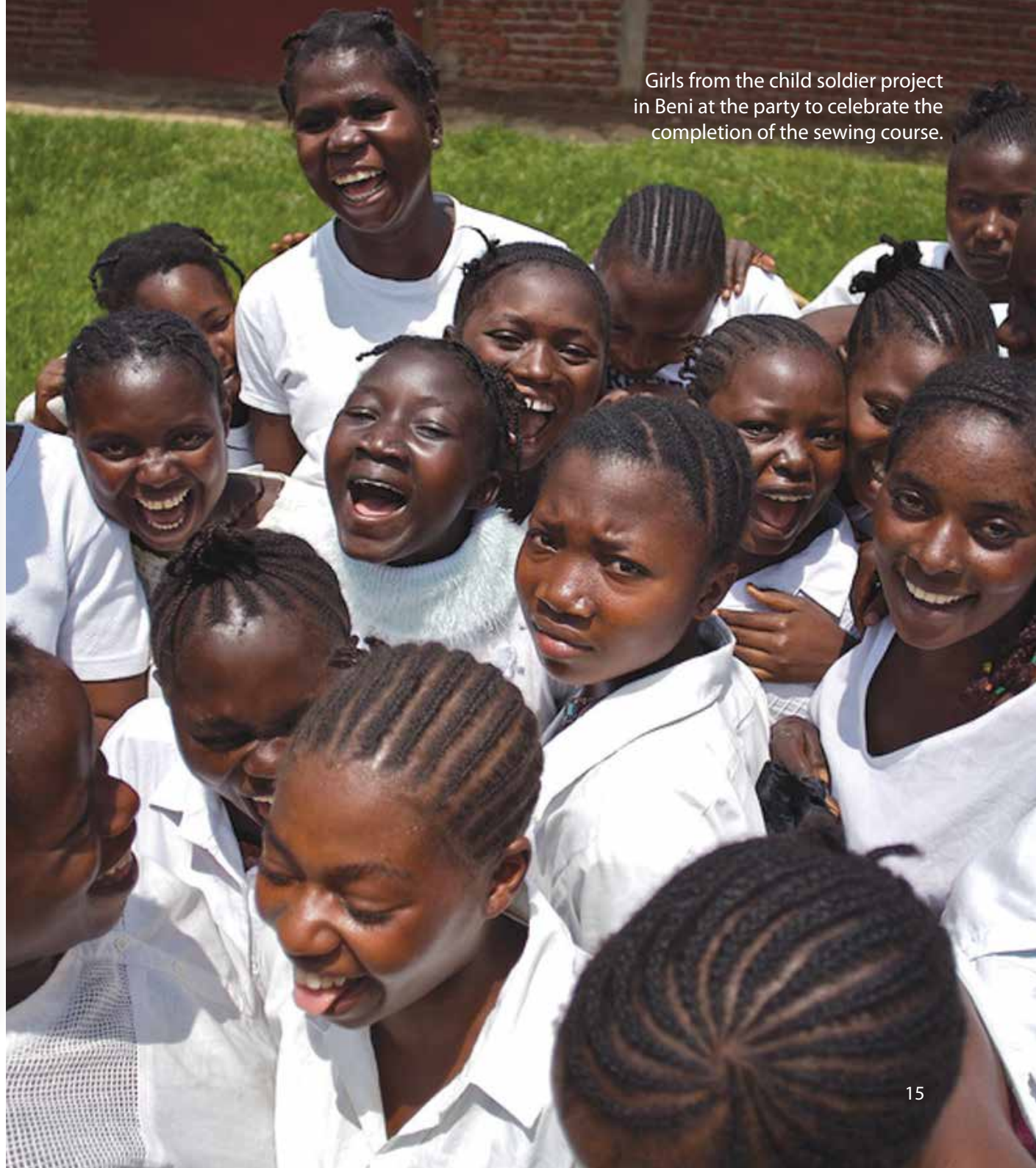
Vi har ikke fått kjennskap til noe forhold som tilsier at stiftelsens forvaltning og utdelinger ikke er foretatt i samsvar med lov, stiftelsens formål og vedtektenes for øvrig.

Oslo, 04. juni 2009

PricewaterhouseCoopers AS


Stephen Constant
Statsautorisert revisor

Alle Arntsen Bergh Boie Drammen Egersund Flor Frestkital Færø Galsøenrud Odd Høner Hornnesfjord Heranger Hestad Høyveierid Kongsvinger Kviteseid Lundebygd Mandal Mr. Hans Mikko Maaen Mikoy Krossen Oslo Sandnesfjord Stegstad Østern Tjøtta Trondheim Trondheim Lyngby Lånemul Alnæsund
PricewaterhouseCoopers Norge reviderer og utfører medlemskapet for den verdslige og merkelige PricewaterhouseCoopers organisasjonen
Medlemmer av Den norske Revisorforening • Forbrukerregulering • Forbrukerregulering 800 987 066 113 • www.pwc.no



Girls from the child soldier project in Beni at the party to celebrate the completion of the sewing course.



joining good forces



Christian Relief Network
Serviceboks 410
4604 Kristiansand
Norge

Tel: +47 22 01 07 00
Email: info@crn.no
Web: www.crn.no

Bankkonto:
9791 10 88820